Europe—although in some sections water power may partially overcome this handicap. Industry, moreover, does not permanently solve the population problem: witness Great Britain and Japan. The structure of Chinese social and religious life has so far encouraged rather than discouraged a high birth rate. It seems obvious, therefore, that the limit of China's natural resources is in sight, and that only a revolution in the Chinese family system and ethical ideals, with widespread teaching and practice of birth control, can ward off disaster.

EFFECTS ON THE CHINESE OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT: THE OUTLYING SECTIONS

When the effect of China proper upon the Chinese people has been appraised, only part of the story has been told. It still remains to recount the influence upon them of the outlying territories.

First of all, these regions have, as we have seen, a marked effect upon the climate of China proper. The heating of the great arid land masses to the north in the summer and the cooling of them in the winter help to determine the direction of China's winds and with them the regularity or irregularity of the rainfall. Upon rainfall, of course, China's food supply largely depends.

Then, too, these territories, especially Tibet (including the new provinces carved from it), are the sources of China's main rivers.

In the next place, the outlying territories have been the origin of repeated invasions. What are now Mongolia and Sinkiang are, as we have seen, arid or semi-arid, and except for occasional oases their populations have, perforce, been chiefly limited for their livelihood to the herds which pasture on the grasses nourished by the scanty and uncertain rainfall. These peoples,

accordingly, have been nomadic or semi-nornadic, with the hardiness and capacity for quick movements and great sudden physical exertion which such a manner of life begets. They have also, as is the habit of such peoples, been warlike. Moreover, they have looked with envy upon the fertile and prosperous valleys toward the east and south and repeatedly have attempted to force their way into them. When a series of unusually dry years diminished the pas-tures, these invasions appear to have been particularly marked, but they have occurred at many other times.